

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 INT-05 COME-00 EB-07

DODE-00 NSF-01 TRSE-00 CEQ-01 EPA-01 DLOS-04 OFA-01

FEA-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-10

CG-00 DOTE-00 ACDA-05 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9932

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2543

FROM USDEL ANTARCTIC

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION: OES, L, NSC, DOD, NSF, TREASURY,
INTERIOR, COMMERCE, CEQ, EPA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XV,TGEN,PLOS,NO

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCE TEXT

REF: STATE 143320

1. TEXT RECOMMENDATION ON MINERAL RESOURCES NOT YET FULLY
NEGOTIATED AT COB JUNE 19. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
RESUMES 0830 HOURS JUNE 20 TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES
IN FIRST OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH. PROVISIONALLY SETTLED
ELEMENTS OF RECOMMENDATION FOLLOW(US HAS RESERVED
APPROVAL EXPRESSLY):

THE REPRESENTATIVES, RECALLING RECOMMENDATION VII-6;
BEARING IN MIND THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE
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ANTARCTIC TREATY;

REAFFIRMING THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL MANKIND THAT THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA SHALL CONTINUE FOREVER TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND SHALL NOT BECOME THE SCENE OR OBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL DISCORD:

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE ANTARCTIC TREATY PLACES A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY UPON THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO EXERT APPROPRIATE EFFORTS, CONSISTENT WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, TO ENSURE THAT NO-ONE ENGAGES IN ANY ACTIVITY IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA CONTRARY TO THE PURPOSES OR PRINCIPLES OF THE TREATY;

CONCERNED THAT MINERAL RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT OF THE ANTARCTIC AND OF OTHER ECOSYSTEMS DEPENDENT ON THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT;

NOTING THE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAR MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION;

CONVINCED THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCES ARE DESIRABLE AND, IN THE MEANTIME, OF THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT TO AVOID PRECIPITATE ACTION IN RELATION TO THE SUBJECT OF THE CONSULTATIONS;

AWARE THAT AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND/OR EXPLOITATION IN THE ANTARCTIC HAS BEEN INADEQUATELY STUDIED AND THAT THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES BEAR A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA;

AWARE ALSO THAT THE GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE ANTARCTIC HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY INVESTIGATED;

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR FURTHER STUDY AND CONSIDERATION ON THESE MATTERS;

RESOLVED THAT THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES SHOULD SEEK TO DEVELOP AN APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF VALUABLE MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE ANTARCTIC, BEARING IN MIND THE PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY;

RECOMMEND TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS

(1) SEE PARA 2 THISTEL.

(2) THAT THEY UNDERTAKE TO STUDY THE ENVIRONMENTAL
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IMPLICATIONS OF MINERAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES IN THE ANTARCTIC AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING JOINT STUDIES AMONG THEM, AND THAT THEY EXCHANGE THE RESULTS OF SUCH STUDIES;

(3) THEY INVITE SCAR THROUGH THEIR NATIONAL ANTARCTIC COMMITTEES TO:

(I) MAKE AN ASSESSMENT ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION OF THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THE

ENVIRONMENT OF THE TREATY AREA AND OTHER ECO-SYSTEMS DEPENDENT ON THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT IF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND/OR EXPLOITATION WERE TO OCCUR THERE. IF POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTS MAY WISH TO ASSIST THEIR NATIONAL ANTARCTIC COMMITTEES IN THIS UNDERTAKING BY APPROPRIATE MEANS.

(II) CONTINUE TO COORDINATE NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN THE ANTARCTIC WITH THE AIM OF OBTAINING FUNDAMENTAL SCIENTIFIC DATA ON THE GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE ANTARCTIC.

(III) CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS ARE NECESSARY IN PURSUIT OF THESE OBJECTIVES;

(4) THAT THE SUBJECT "ANTARCTIC RESOURCES--EFFECTS OF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION" BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE NINTH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

2. THIS PARA IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION. BASIS OF DISCUSSION IS FOLLOWING TEXT:

"(1) THAT THE SUBJECT "ANTARCTIC RESOURCES--EFFECTS OF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION" BE FULLY STUDIED IN ALL ASPECTS, AND BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATION AMONG THEM, WITH A VIEW TO CONVENING A PREPARATORY MEETING DURING 1976, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE TO BE DETERMINED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS."

3. OUTSTANDING ISSUES ABOVE PARA. : US WANTS THE WORDS QUOTE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND THAT A PREPARATORY MEETING BE CONVENED DURING 1976, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE TO BE DETERMINED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS UNQUOTE. CONFIDENTIAL

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CHILE PUSHING TO CHANGE QUOTE IN ALL RESPECTS UNQUOTE TO QUOTE INCLUDING LEGAL,POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS UNQUOTE. KNOWN POSITIONS OF OTHERS WOULD GO ALONG WITH EITHER FORMULATION.

4. IN ORDER TO CONDITION SEVENTH PREAMBULAR PARA TO PROTECT US OPTIONS AS PROVIDED IN PRESIDENT'S MEMORANDUM OF MAY 20, US HAS NEGOTIATED AD REF INCLUSION FOLLOWING LANGUAGE IN FINAL REPORT OF EIGHTH MEETING:
"THE MEETING NOTED THAT EACH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTED AT THE EIGHTH MEETING OPPOSES ACTIONS BY ANY NATION OR PERSONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMERCIAL EXPLORATION OR EXPLOITATION OF ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCES WHILE SEEKING AGREED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF VALUABLE MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE ANTARCTIC. THE REPRESENTATIVES ALSO NOTED THE INTENTION

OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO KEEP THE QUESTION UNDER CONTIN-
UING REVIEW IN LIGHT OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

USDEL ENDEAVORED BY THIS LANGUAGE TO PUT INTO FINAL REPORT,
WHICH UNLIKE RECOMMENDATIONS GETS LIMITED DISTRIBUTION, WORDS
MAKING ABSOLUTELY CLEAR US INTENTION IN SEVENTH PREAMBULAR PARA.

REFTEL RECEIVED TOO LATE TO REVERSE THIS GENERAL APPROACH.
BYRNE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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